

UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
LUMUMBA BANDELE, DJIBRIL TOURE and DAVID
FLOYD,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY POLICE
OFFICER THOMAS STEVENS (SHIELD #11092), in his
individual and official capacity, NEW YORK CITY
POLICE OFFICER CARLOS VEGA, in his individual and
official capacity; NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER
ERICK NOLAN, in his individual and official capacity;
NEW YORK CITY POLICE SERGEANT SEAMUS
LAVIN, in his individual and official capacity; NEW
YORK CITY POLICE SERGEANT HOLT, in his
individual and official capacity,

Defendants.

**ANSWER TO AMENDED
COMPLAINT ON
BEHALF OF
DEFENDANTS VEGA,
NOLAN, LAVIN AND
HOLT**

07 CV 3339 (MGC)

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

-----X
Defendant Police Officers Carlos Vega, Eric Nolan, Seamus Lavin and Robert
Holt, by their attorney, Michael A. Cardozo, Corporation Counsel of the City of New York, for
their answer to the amended complaint, respectfully allege, upon information and belief, as
follows:

1. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "1" of the amended complaint,
except admit that plaintiffs purport to proceed as stated therein.
2. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "2" of the amended complaint,
except admit that plaintiffs purport to proceed as stated therein.
3. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "3" of the amended complaint,
except admit that plaintiffs purport to invoke the Court's jurisdiction as stated therein.

4. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “4” of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiffs purport to seek declaratory and injunctive relief as stated therein.

5. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “5” of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiffs purport to invoke the Court’s jurisdiction as stated therein.

6. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “6” of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiffs purport to base venue as stated therein.

7. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “7” of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiffs purport to proceed as stated therein.

8. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “8” of the amended complaint, except admit that a document purporting to be a Notice of Claim pertaining to plaintiff Djibril Toure was received by the City of New York on or about May 9, 2005; a document purporting to be a Notice of Claim pertaining to plaintiff Lumumba Bandele was received by the City of New York on or about October 5, 2006; and a document purporting to be a Notice of Claim pertaining to plaintiff David Floyd was received by the City of New York on or about May 9, 2005.

9. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “9” of the amended complaint, except admit that the each of the three Notices of Claim referenced in paragraph 8 above were in writing, were sworn to, and each contained the name and purported address of a plaintiff.

10. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “10” of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiffs purport the Notices of Claim set forth claims as stated therein.

11. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “11” of the amended complaint, except admit that the claims have not been settled.

12. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph "12" of the amended complaint.

13. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "13" of the amended complaint, except admit that the City of New York is a municipal corporation duly incorporated under the applicable laws and maintains a police department in accordance with applicable laws.

14. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "14" of the amended complaint, except admit that at the time of the alleged incident defendants Vega, Nolan, Lavin and Holt were police officers employed by the City of New York.

15. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "15" of the amended complaint, except admit that at the time of the alleged incident defendant Thomas Stevens was a police officer employed by the City of New York and admit that plaintiffs purport to sue defendant Thomas Stevens in his individual and official capacities.

16. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "16" of the amended complaint, except admit that at the time of the alleged incident defendant Carlos Vega was a police officer employed by the City of New York and admit that plaintiffs purport to sue defendant Carlos Vega in his individual and official capacities.

17. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "17" of the amended complaint, except admit that at the time of the alleged incident defendant Erick Nolan was a police officer employed by the City of New York and admit that plaintiffs purport to sue defendant Erick Nolan in his individual and official capacities.

18. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "18" of the amended complaint, except admit that at the time of the alleged incident defendant Seamus Lavin was a

police officer employed by the City of New York and admit that plaintiffs purport to sue defendant Seamus Lavin in his individual and official capacities.

19. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "19" of the amended complaint, except admit that at the time of the alleged incident defendant Sgt. Holt was a police officer employed by the City of New York and admit that plaintiffs purport to sue defendant Sgt. Holt in his individual and official capacities.

20. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph "20" of the amended complaint, except admit that on February 9, 2005, the named defendant officers were on duty with the New York Police Department.

21. The allegations set forth in paragraph "21" of the amended complaint state legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, defendants deny the allegations set forth in said paragraph.

22. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph "22" of the amended complaint.

23. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph "23" of the amended complaint.

24. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph "24" of the amended complaint.

25. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph "25" of the amended complaint.

26. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph "26" of the amended complaint.

27. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “27” of the amended complaint.

28. Deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph “28” of the amended complaint.

29. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “29” of the amended complaint, except deny knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of so much of paragraph “29” as alleges that Plaintiffs Bandele, Toure and Floyd stood on the public sidewalk and began videotaping the scene.

30. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “30” of the amended complaint, except admit that Defendant Stevens ordered Plaintiffs to leave the area and deny knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of so much of paragraph “30” as that the video camera continued to operate.

31. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “31” of the amended complaint.

32. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “32” of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiffs were arrested.

33. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “33” of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiffs Bandele, Floyd and Toure were charged with certain offenses.

34. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “34” of the amended complaint, except admit that plaintiffs were released on their own recognizance.

35. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “35” of the amended complaint.

36. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “36” of the amended complaint, except admit that charges were dismissed.

37. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “37” of the amended complaint.

38. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “38” of the amended complaint.

39. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “39” of the amended complaint.

40. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “40” of the amended complaint.

41. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “41” of the amended complaint.

42. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “42” of the amended complaint.

43. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “43” of the amended complaint.

44. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “44” of the amended complaint.

45. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “45” of the amended complaint.

46. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “46” of the amended complaint.

47. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "47" of the amended complaint.

48. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "48" of the amended complaint.

49. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "49" of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" through "49," inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

50. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "50" of the amended complaint.

51. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "51" of the amended complaint.

52. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "52" of the amended complaint.

53. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "53" of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" through "53," inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

54. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "54" of the amended complaint.

55. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "55" of the amended complaint.

56. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "56" of the amended complaint.

57. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “57” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs “1” through “57,” inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

58. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “58” of the amended complaint.

59. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “59” of the amended complaint.

60. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “60” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs “1” through “60,” inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

61. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “61” of the amended complaint.

62. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “62” of the amended complaint.

63. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “63” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs “1” through “63,” inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

64. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “64” of the amended complaint.

65. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “65” of the amended complaint.

66. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “66” of the amended complaint.

67. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “67” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs “1” through “67,” inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

68. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “68” of the amended complaint.

69. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “69” of the amended complaint.

70. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph “70” of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs “1” through “70,” inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

71. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “71” of the amended complaint.

72. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “72” of the amended complaint.

73. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “73” of the amended complaint.

74. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “74” of the amended complaint.

75. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “75” of the amended complaint.

76. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph “76” of the amended complaint.

77. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "77" of the amended complaint.

78. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "78" of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" through "78," inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

79. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "79" of the amended complaint.

80. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "80" of the amended complaint.

81. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "81" of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" through "81," inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

82. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "82" of the amended complaint.

83. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "83" of the amended complaint.

84. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "84" of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" through "84," inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

85. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "85" of the amended complaint.

86. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "86" of the amended complaint.

87. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "87" of the amended complaint.

88. Paragraph "88" of the amended complaint purports to set forth a conclusion of law, rather than averment of fact, and accordingly no response is required. To the extent a response is required, defendants deny the allegations set forth in said paragraph.

89. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "89" of the amended complaint.

90. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "90" of the amended complaint.

91. In response to the allegations set forth in paragraph "91" of the amended complaint, defendants repeat and reallege the responses set forth in paragraphs "1" through "91," inclusive of this answer, as if fully set forth herein.

92. Deny the allegations set forth in paragraph "92" of the amended complaint.

AS AND FOR A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

93. The amended complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

AS AND FOR A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

94. There was probable cause for plaintiffs' arrests, detentions, and prosecutions.

AS AND FOR A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

95. Defendants have not violated any rights, privileges or immunities under the Constitution or laws of the United States or the State of New York or any political

subdivision thereof, nor have they violated any act of Congress providing for the protection of civil rights.

AS AND FOR A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

96. Any injury alleged to have been sustained resulted from plaintiffs' own culpable or negligent conduct and/or the intervening conduct of non-parties and was not the proximate result of any act of the defendants.

AS AND FOR A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

97. Plaintiffs provoked the incident.

AS AND FOR A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

98. The individual defendants have not violated any clearly established constitutional or statutory right of which a reasonable person would have known and therefore are protected by qualified immunity.

AS AND FOR A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

99. Punitive damages are not recoverable against the City of New York.

AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

100. At all times relevant to the acts alleged in the amended complaint defendant City of New York, its agents and servants, acted reasonably in the proper and lawful exercise of its discretion. Therefore, it is entitled to governmental immunity from liability.

AS AND FOR AN NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

101. Plaintiffs have failed to comply with G.M.L. § 50(e) & (i).

AS AND FOR AN TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE:

102. Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the applicable statute of limitations.

WHEREFORE, defendants request judgment dismissing the amended complaint in its entirety, together with the costs and disbursements of this action, and such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York
April 28, 2008

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Of Counsel: Linda Donahue

Tel: (212) 788-0892

NYCLIS No.

Due and timely service is hereby admitted.

New York, N.Y., 2008

..... Esq.

Attorney for City of New York